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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

Dr. Suzan Johnson Cook, Believers' Christian Fellowship Church, New York, New York, offered the following prayer:

Our God and our Creator, we come to You this day, rejoicing in our hearts for life and life more abundant. We ask You to guide us throughout this day, throughout all of our proceedings, that we may go forth with purpose, passion, and perseverance, representing the people who have both elected and put their trust in us. Please also bless our families as we are absent from them. Let no hurt, harm, nor danger come their way this day. May we now place our trust in You.

We ask also, God, that You keep ever before us our mission, our missives, and keep our minds focused, clear, and convicted to be servants as we represent our Nation, the United States of America.

Thank You for this opportunity to serve. Thank You for Your grace. Thank You for Your wisdom. Thank You for the honor and privilege to serve.

Bless also those amongst us who are candidates for office. Give them strength and keep them grounded in Thee. We also ask, O God, that You bless not only us, but those around this world, especially those who live in fear, poverty, and with injustice. May what we say and do make a difference that we may be a light to this world, as You shine through us.

This is our prayer in Your name and for Your sake. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TOWNS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2429. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide an exception to the 60-day limit on Medicare reciprocal billing arrangements between two physicians during the period in which one of the physicians is ordered to active duty as a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a concurrent resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 42. Concurrent resolution recognizing the need to pursue research into the causes, treatment, and eventual cure for idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, supporting the designation of a National Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Week, and for other purposes.

WELCOMING DR. SUZAN JOHNSON COOK

(Mr. TOWNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rev. Dr. Suzan Johnson Cook. Rev. Cook is the pastor at the Believers' Christian Fellowship Church, which she founded in 1996 after serving as pastor of the Mariners' Temple Baptist Church in downtown Man-

hattan for 13 years. In 2002, Rev. Cook became the first woman elected president of the 10,000-member Hampton, Virginia, University Ministers Conference, which represents all the historically African American denominations. Her list of other "firsts" includes: first woman appointed Chaplain of the New York Police Department and the first female baptist minister from the Bronx to receive a White House fellowship.

A woman of promise, passion, diligence, and determination, Rev. Cook is the author of eight successful books. In 1997 Rev. Cook was featured by Ebony Magazine as one of the Nation's top 15 women in ministry.

Rev. Cook has toured nationally with Bishop T.D. Jakes and the "God's Leading Ladies Conference." Her motto is "If I can help somebody, then my living is not in vain."

A faculty member and graduate of Harvard University, she also received a doctorate of ministry degree from Union Theological Seminary, a master of divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary, and a master of arts degree from Columbia University.

Rev. Cook is married to Ronald Cook, and they reside in New York City with their two sons.

Dr. Cook is a powerful orator and was recently described in the New York Times as "Billy Graham and Oprah rolled into one." Her mentoring and leadership skills have now charged her to form The Woman in Ministry International Summit, which supports and advocates for women church leaders.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize this magnificent minister, scholar, and dynamic leader, and urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this outstanding member of the clergy.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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